

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****SEP 25 2006****Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Melissa D. Boyd et al.

Serial No.: 10/723,891

Filed: November 26, 2003

Docket No.: 109701792-4

Title: PLATFORM INCLUDING FLUID MANIFOLD FOR MULTIPLE FLUID EJECTION DEVICES**REMARKS**

The following Remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed June 23, 2006, in which claims 20-22, 26-31, and 35-37 were allowed, claims 38, 42, 43, and 45 were rejected, and claim 41 was objected to.

With this Amendment, claims 38 and 43 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. Claims 20-22, 26-31, 35-38, 41-43, and 45, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 38, 42, 43, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cowger et al. US Patent No. 5,565,900.

With this Amendment, independent claim 38 has been amended to clarify that fluidically coupling each of the first plurality of fluid feed slots and the second plurality of fluid feed slots with the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet includes defining (1) a first fluid flow path from the fluid inlet, (2) a first plurality of fluid flow paths each communicating with the first fluid flow path and one of the first plurality of fluid feed slots, (3) a second fluid flow path to the fluid outlet, (4) a second plurality of fluid flow paths each communicating with the second fluid flow path and one of the second plurality of fluid feed slots, and (5) a third plurality of fluid flow paths each communicating with one of the first plurality of fluid feed slots and one of the second plurality of fluid feed slots.

With this Amendment, independent claim 43 has been amended to clarify that distributing, supplying, and returning the fluid includes distributing the fluid from the fluid inlet to each of the first plurality of fluid feed slots via (1) a first channel communicating with the fluid inlet and via (2) a first plurality of sub-channels each communicating with the first channel and one of the first plurality of fluid feed slots, from each of the second plurality of fluid feed slots to the fluid outlet via (3) a second channel communicating with the fluid outlet and via (4) a second plurality of sub-channels each communicating with the second channel and one of the second plurality of fluid feed slots, and between each of the first plurality of fluid feed slots and the second plurality of fluid feed slots via (5) a third plurality of sub-channels each communicating with one of the first plurality of fluid feed slots and one of the second plurality of fluid feed slots.

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With respect to the Cowger et al. patent, Applicant submits that this patent does not teach or suggest a method of forming a fluid ejection assembly as claimed in independent claim 38 including a first plurality of fluid flow paths each communicating with a first fluid flow path and one of a first plurality of fluid feed slots, a second plurality of fluid flow paths each communicating with a second fluid flow path and one of a second plurality of fluid feed slots, and a third plurality of fluid flow paths each communicating with one of the first plurality of fluid feed slots and one of the second plurality of fluid feed slots, nor a method of circulating fluid as claimed in independent claim 43 including distributing the fluid from a fluid inlet to each of a first plurality of fluid feed slots via a first channel communicating with the fluid inlet and via a first plurality of sub-channels each communicating with the first channel and one of the first plurality of fluid feed slots, from each of a second plurality of fluid feed slots to a fluid outlet via a second channel communicating with the fluid outlet and via a second plurality of sub-channels each communicating with the second channel and one of the second plurality of fluid feed slots, and between each of the first plurality of fluid feed slots and the second plurality of fluid feed slots via a third plurality of sub-channels each communicating with one of the first plurality of fluid feed slots and one of the second plurality of fluid feed slots.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 38 and 43 are each patentably distinct from the Cowger et al. patent and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 41 and 42 further define patentably distinct claim 38, and dependent claim 45 further defines patentably distinct claim 43, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 38, 42, 43, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 38, 41, 42, 43, and 45 be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-22, 26-31, and 35-37 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the indicated allowance of these claims.

Claim 41 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claim 41. As outlined above, Applicant, however, has amended independent claim 38 (from which claim 41 depends) to clarify that fluidically coupling each of the first plurality of fluid feed slots and the second plurality of fluid feed slots with the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet includes, amongst other things, defining a first plurality of fluid flow paths each communicating with the first fluid flow path and one of the first plurality of fluid feed slots, defining a second plurality of fluid flow paths each communicating with the second fluid flow path and one of the second plurality of fluid feed slots, and defining a third plurality of fluid flow paths each communicating with one of the first plurality of fluid feed slots and one of the second plurality of fluid feed slots. As amended independent claim 38 is believed to be in allowable form, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 41 is allowable in dependent form. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the objection to claim 41 be withdrawn and that claim 41 be allowed.

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In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 20-22, 26-31, 35-38, 41-43, and 45 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Donald J. Coulman at Telephone No. (541) 715-1694, Facsimile No. (541) 715-8581 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

IP Administration
Legal Department, M/S 35
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa D. Boyd et al.,

By,

DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, PLLC
Fifth Street Towers, Suite 2250
100 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 573-2006
Facsimile: (612) 573-2005

Date: SEPT. 25, 2006
SAL:hsf


Scott A. Lund
Reg. No. 41,166

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By 
Name: Scott A. Lund